



grandchallenge@darpa.mil

www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge

866/DARPA-GC (866/327-7242)

For Immediate Release – March 12, 2004

Contacts: Don Shipley – 202/289-2001; 571/212-7492 (cell)  
Johanna Spangenberg – 202/289-2001; 571/217-5598 (cell)  
Dominic Clark – 702/735-7123; 702/682-9937 (cell)

## **Fifteen Teams Selected to Participate in the DARPA Grand Challenge Field Test**

Fontana, CA – Fifteen teams have been selected to participate in the DARPA Grand Challenge Field Test on March 13, 2004 from Barstow, CA to Primm, NV. The selection was made after a week-long qualification, inspection and demonstration (QID) event at California Speedway that tested the ability of the vehicles' systems to traverse the course safely in addition to being able to autonomously navigate and avoid obstacles.

“When we first came up with the idea of the Grand Challenge, our hope was to attract the most talented and diverse group of teams,” said Dr. Anthony Tether, Director of DARPA. “The final group of teams shows that our effort to attract top-quality participants has been an unqualified success.”

The selected teams are listed below in official starting order, based on results from the QID:

1. (22) Red Team – Pittsburgh, PA
2. (21) SciAutonics II – Thousand Oaks, CA
3. (05) Team Caltech – Pasadena, CA
4. (07) Digital Auto Drive (DAD) – Morgan Hill, CA
5. (25) Virginia Tech – Blacksburg, VA
6. (23) Axion Racing – Westlake Village, CA
7. (02) Team CajunBot – Lafayette, LA
8. (13) Team ENSCO – Falls Church, VA
9. (04) Team CIMAR – Gainesville, FL and Logan, UT
10. (10) Palos Verdes High School RoadWarriors – Palos Verdes Estates, CA
11. (17) SciAutonics I – Thousand Oaks, CA
12. (20) Team TerraMax – Oshkosh, WI
13. (15) Team TerraHawk – Gardena, CA
14. (09) The Golem Group – Santa Monica, CA
15. (16) The Blue Team – Berkeley, CA

The course for the field test covers miles of off- and on-road terrain that will be cleared of non-participating vehicles. Competitors' entries must be unmanned, fully autonomous ground vehicles that cannot be remotely driven. Boundaries define the course, and vehicles that go outside of them will be disqualified. Each vehicle will be trailed on the course by a control vehicle occupied by government officials and equipped with an emergency stop system to prevent collisions and other unsafe situations.

-more-



[grandchallenge@darpa.mil](mailto:grandchallenge@darpa.mil)

.

[www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge](http://www.darpa.mil/grandchallenge)

.

866/DARPA-GC (866/327-7242)

The first media coverage opportunities on the day of the Grand Challenge main event will be at the starting line area in Barstow, CA at the Slash X Café, and at the finish area behind Buffalo Bill's in Primm, NV. Events in Barstow will start with a 4:00 a.m. media registration, a mandatory 5:00 a.m. press briefing and a 6:00 a.m. kick-off ceremony leading up to vehicle departures that take place every five minutes beginning at 6:30 a.m. In Primm, media registration will begin at 6:00 a.m., and a live satellite feed of the entire Grand Challenge start will be projected on a large screen in the Star of the Desert Arena adjoining Buffalo Bill's Resort.

DARPA strongly encourages media at the starting area in Barstow to travel directly to the finish area in Primm if they plan to continue covering the Grand Challenge throughout the day. There will be other media access points along the route in addition to those in the start and finish areas. Details on the exact locations of media access areas will be released on the morning of the Grand Challenge.

DARPA is the central research and development organization for the U.S. Department of Defense. The Agency manages and directs basic and applied research and development projects for the Department of Defense, and pursues research and technology where the risk and payoff are both very high and where success may provide dramatic advances for traditional military roles and missions.

#### **SPECIAL MEDIA NOTES:**

##### **Grand Challenge Informational, Webcast and Photo Site:**

[www.grandchallenge.org](http://www.grandchallenge.org)

This includes live tracking updates of the March 13<sup>th</sup> field test.

##### **Satellite Feed**

On Saturday, March 13, DARPA will provide same-day coverage via satellite of the Grand Challenge start and highlights at the following times:

- Live coverage of the start: 6:30 - 8:30 Pacific/9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Eastern
- Video news release: 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. Pacific/2:00 - 2:30 p.m. Eastern
- Coordinates: AMC 9, Ku, Transponder 03, 36 MHz, downlink frequency 11760.000, downlink polarity vertical

##### **Mandatory Media Briefing**

At 5 a.m., Saturday March 13<sup>th</sup>, a mandatory media coverage/access briefing will be held in the chapel at the Slash X Café in Barstow, CA.

###